

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending. All of the claims have been rejected as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,625,582 to Richman ("Richman") (Claims 1, 12, 19-21 31 and 34 or rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Richman (Claims 2-11, 13-18, 22-30, 32-33 and 35.

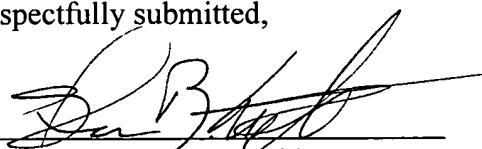
In response, applicant includes herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R § 1.131, with Exhibits A (3 page extract) and B, which establishes that the applicant of the present application had full possession of the presently claimed invention before the filing date of Richman. Therefore, Richman does not qualify as prior art under § 102(e). Because Richman does not qualify as prior art under §102, it does qualify as prior art under § 103. Thus, the rejections in view of Richman are traversed.

Applicants request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowability is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,



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